

Transportation Advisory Committee
Town of Arlington

Minutes of Meeting on

Tuesday, August 30, 2005 7:15 PM

Committee members present: Joe Cahill, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Ralph Elwell, Lt. Jim McHugh, Kevin O'Brien, Mike Rademacher, Ron Santosuosso, Scott Smith, Ed Starr

Associate Members: Howard Muise

Others: Oakes Plimpton

1. The minutes of July 26, 2005 were approved. (Scott Smith abstained, others voted yes)

2. Downing Square

Ron Santosuosso reported that the need for the detours due to Summer Street construction should end in late September. We could then re-install the experiment, and leave it out for October and November. We agreed to target the third week in September for resuming the traffic calming experiment. Elisabeth Carr-Jones will notify stakeholders of this plan. Other issues discussed include the following:

- Parking along the east side of Park Avenue. Should the sidewalk be moved back now? Angle versus parallel parking?
- Conflicts between left turns from Park to Lowell, and right turns from Lowell to Park. Perhaps the bump-out on Lowell (west side of the intersection) needs to be smaller.
- Capital funding for the final installation.

3. Dallin School

Ron Santosuosso reported that the proposed sidewalk on the west side of Florence between George and Renfrew might not be practical because of a large number of street trees. Given limited funding for any sidewalks, he proposed and Elisabeth Carr-Jones agreed that these funds would be better spent on sidewalk improvements between Renfrew and Waverly.

It was unanimously voted that we would recommend proceeding without a sidewalk on the east side of Florence between George and Renfrew.

4. Library Way / Water Street

Mike Rademacher reported that, apart from bumpouts, there was not much that could be done for the geometry of this location. Possible short-term actions would include

- Widen the existing crosswalk to the standard width for thermoplastic crosswalks
- Trim the vegetation on the traffic island
- Improved signage (fluorescent yellow green pedestrian warning signs) on the side.

We discussed the possibility of prohibiting left turns. Scott Smith asked that detailed crash information be made available, so that we could see the number of crashes due to left turns. Lt. McHugh noted that the Police would support a left turn prohibition.

5. Winslow / Mystic

Scott Smith presented recommendations:

- No action on the crosswalk
- Allow the organizers of the Farmer's market to put up temporary warning signs while the market is in

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operation

- Install do-not-block-intersection signs and/or markings.

Elisabeth Carr-Jones noted that adding a crosswalk might add to the other hazards of the intersection.

The recommendations were voted (Lt. McHugh abstaining, others voting yes).

6. Thorndike Field

Howard Muise reported on a recent early evening meeting with Joe Carabello of the Parks & Recreation commission. At that time (5:30 PM) there were approximately 20 cars (apparently belonging to commuters) in the lot. There is a long term plan to expand the parking lot. Current issues include

- 2-hour parking signs had been taken down due to the Route 2 construction, but they had not been restored
- Parking on the driveway to the parking lot that connects with Margaret Street
- An unpainted speed bump (hazard to cyclists)

The following short term recommendations were unanimously voted:

- No parking on the inbound (south) side of the driveway
- Cut back vegetation on the south side of the driveway, to provide a bit of a walking path
- Paint the speed bump
- Restore the 2-hour parking signs
- Targeted enforcement.

7. Crosby / College

Lt. McHugh reported that this is currently an uncontrolled cross intersection with three crashes since 2000 and limited sightlines. Crosby Street carries the greater traffic flow. He proposed that a two-way stop be installed with the stop signs facing College Avenue. This recommendation was unanimously approved.

8. Walkable Communities Workshop

Ed Starr reported that the Walkable Communities Workshop is scheduled for 9/22/2005, from 8:30 – 11 AM. The Town needs to provide a room, refreshments and publicity. We briefly discussed possible locations, with Scott Smith expressing a preference for a location on Mass Ave.

9. Mass Ave. Corridor

Kevin O'Brien reported that he, John Sanchez, Brian Sullivan, Trish Domigan (VHB), and Don Cook (VHB) took a walking tour of the corridor between Water Street and Pond Lane with Connie Raphael and Brian Fallon of Mass Highway. Mass Highway then sent a letter to Brian Sullivan requesting that the following issues be addressed:

- Documentation of community support, and the exact intent of the Federal earmark
- Identify design exceptions in Arlington Center
- Accident analysis for Mass Ave / Route 60, which is considered a high crash location.

Mass Highway also suggested that the project be split into two components: west of Pond Lane and east of Pond Lane. We agreed on the following actions:

- Kevin to prepare response to Mass Highway with help from other TAC members.
- Kevin to organize meetings regarding VHB's continued effort. Approaches to getting funds for the design effort should be included in these meetings.

10. Outstanding Work

Ed Starr and Ron Santosuosso reviewed the list of outstanding work:

- Russell Street should start in October. There was a question as to whether residents still wanted alternate side parking on Russell Street. Ron will provide the existing plans for alternate side parking to Elisabeth Carr-Jones and she will discuss with residents.
- Signs in Arlington Center for the multi-use project are done.
- Thermoplastic crosswalks are nearly done. Elisabeth noted that the crosswalk at Lake and Wilson was not done, and Scott Smith noted that some of the minor crossings on the bikeway (Linwood, Swan Place) are badly faded and need to be redone (in paint).

Ron Santosuosso departed.

11. Crosswalk near Sunrise Assisted Living

Ed Starr noted that three parking spots would be lost with a crosswalk, and wanted to check on parking demand in September. Scott Smith distributed the draft guidelines for when to have a crosswalk, and asked that committee members review them.

12. Fisher /Fayette

Joe Cahill reported that this is on hold until September, so we can see the added activity when school opens.

13. Town Day Planning

For Town Day, we agreed to add materials on the Mass Ave. corridor project.

14. Expediting Small Projects

Ed Starr presented a plan to expediting small projects. It was unanimously adopted. Elisabeth Carr-Jones suggested adding the street list to the web site, and Scott Smith suggesting adding a list of things that we won't do (e.g., Children signs, Speed limits)

15. 385 Mass. Ave.

Lt. McHugh reported that he and John Sanchez took a look at the situation. It is mainly a parking issue, and not for TAC.

16. Town Departments

Kevin O'Brien reported that the Arlington Redevelopment Board has closed the public hearing on the residential portion. The developer will not take possession of the property until 6/2006. There is also a proposal to designate Massachusetts Avenue between Arlington and Concord as a scenic byway.

17. Multi-Use Projects

Elisabeth Carr-Jones reported that Anne Lusk had distributed drafts of her final report.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM

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Handouts:

Agenda package including agenda, walkable community workshop tasks, Town Day 2005 signup, proposed process for minor projects, toolkit for projects, outstanding voted actions yet to be done, and list of working groups – from Ed Starr

Minutes from 7/25/2005 – from Ed Starr

Winslow/Mystic recommendations, and draft crosswalk criteria – from Scott Smith

GIS diagrams of Arlington intersections that were discussed at the meeting – from Kevin O'Brien